

# First Presbyterian Church

410 Second Avenue | PO Box 441 | Sterling, IL 61081 | (815) 625-0452

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way, that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place. In the eating of this bread and in the sharing of this cup, we invite your life to fill us; we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world. We offer to you now our petitions and intercessions, praying for the world and all its people...(silence)  
all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit...(silence)  
loved ones who are struggling....(silence)  
your church in every place...(silence)  
our community....(silence)  
and our congregation...(silence)  
and we are bold to pray now the prayer Christ taught us, saying:

## Lord's Prayer (sung)

## Sharing the Bread and the Cup

## Prayer After the Supper

Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence. We accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer and offer back our own lives in return, that we may love you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

## God's People Are Sent

**\*Closing Song** Christ the Lord is Risen Today! (Blue 113 v. 1, 2, 4)

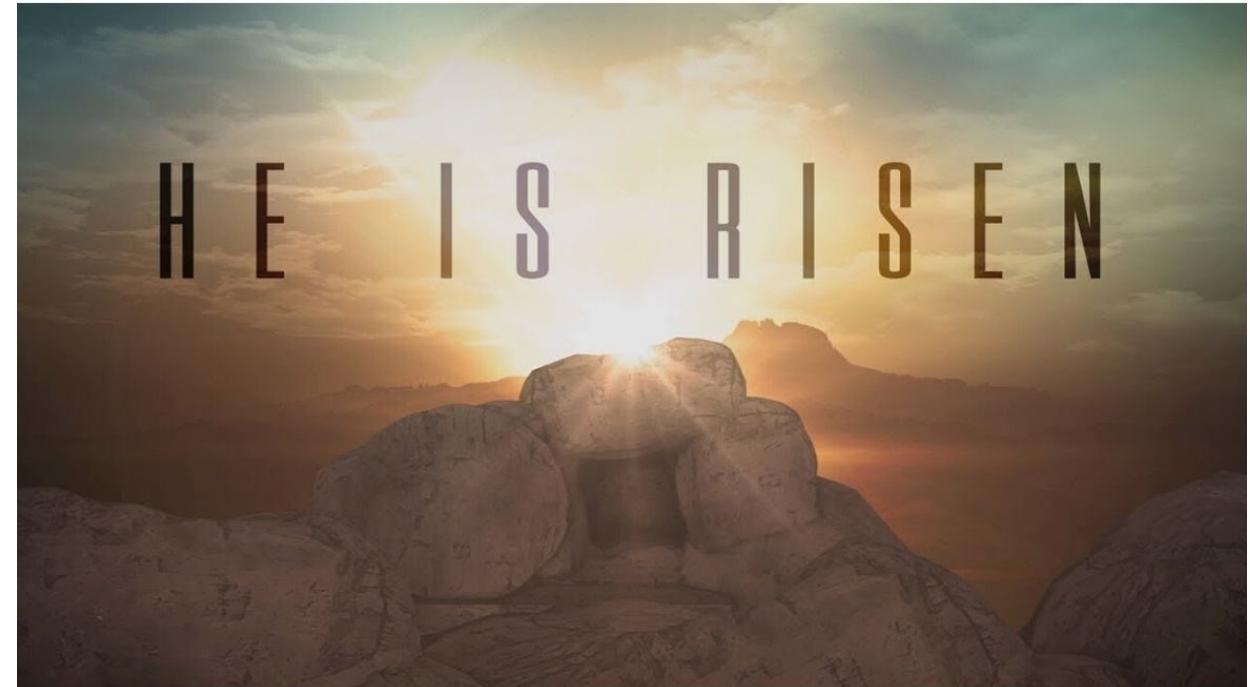
## \*Benediction

Leader:....and let all God's people say...

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Response** My Redeemer Lives

## \*Postlude



**Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry**

**Ministers - All the People**

**April 17, 2022**

## God's People Gather

### Welcome

### Threshold Moment

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

**\*Opening Song**            Jesus Christ is Risen Today (Blue 123 v. 1, 2, 4)

### Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection, from the moment the women stood at the empty tomb, everything changed. Since that moment, every morning is Easter: a celebration of life in you. But we fail to act as if this is true. Rather than arising with joy, rejoicing throughout the day, listening for your word, and spending time in prayer, we trudge through our days as if there is no reason for rejoicing. Rather than celebrate each morning's rising as a new opportunity to love you and love our neighbors, we act as if the only time we can worship is on Sunday. Forgive us, God! Turn our steps to walk with you, and let every day be a hallelujah!

*Silence is kept*

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, dwell no longer on your wounds, for he was raised to heal us. Consider your sorrows no more, for he has risen to give you deep joy. Turn away from your sins and know that in his rising, you have new life. Cease your lament and sing alleluia, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### \*Glory to God

### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**\*Response**                    Peace Song

## God's Word is Proclaimed

### Choir Anthem

### Children's Time

**Sermon**                      How Easter Changes Everything

### Responding to God's Word

### Moment of Reflection

### Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: We lift our hearts up to you, O God to bring our thanks and praise. You created the world by speaking life into being. Through your renewing power, your creation is always being reborn, season by season, child by child. You covenanted with your people showed the way of love— a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love. You called forth prophets who dared to speak words of life to worldly powers that promoted death. You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of love—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of love. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join their unending hymn: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

**Response: (Sung) Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord....**

Leader: You are holy, O God of love, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One, in whom your fullness dwells. Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught all who would listened to him, healed all who came to him, received all who sought him. He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate. Committed to walk boldly into the life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us. Accept our praise and thanksgiving, and transform us into people who live to proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers grace to all.

**Response: (Sung) Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord....**